

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Study of Federal Justice System Improvement  
Activities

The weaknesses of our present system of justice are painfully clear to many citizens. Lawyers are often available only to the wealthy or the very poor. There are substantial backlogs in the courts. While many people have proposed plans for resolving disputes outside of the courts, few of these plans are now operating. The Federal Government does not bear full responsibility for correcting these inequities, but it should make its own system a model and encourage State and local governments to improve the quality of their systems of justice.

I have therefore directed my Reorganization Project Staff at the Office of Management and Budget to review all Federal activities designed to improve the system of justice in this country. These include: (1) justice research programs; (2) justice information and statistical services; (3) justice policy and planning offices; (4) financial assistance for State and local systems; and (5) other reform activities such as juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs.

This review will rely heavily on advice and counsel from Congress, Executive departments and agencies, the Judiciary, State and local officials, and the public.

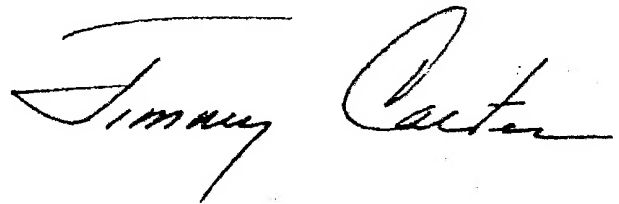
You may be asked to contribute time, resources, and staff support to this effort. I consider this to be a high priority matter, and I know I can count on your cooperation and assistance.

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

OMB

In order to inform all affected parties that this review is underway, I have directed that this memorandum be published in the Federal Register.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

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